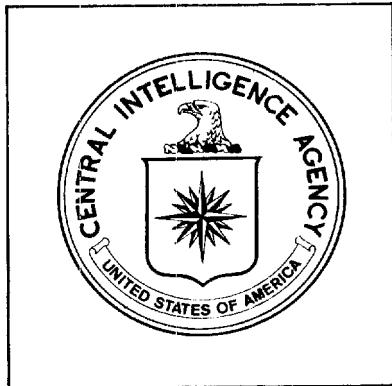


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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Middle East

Arabs May Intend to Expel Israel from the ICAO

The Arab states may be preparing steps to expel Israel from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). At a meeting of the Arab Civil Aviation Council in Morocco last month the Arabs reportedly concluded that they could count on sufficient support for this move and, therefore, they should proceed with specific steps to bring it about.

No precedent exists for the expulsion of an ICAO member, although both South Africa and Portugal have had some rights suspended by the Assembly. It is uncertain, moreover, whether such an Arab move could succeed at this time. A regular Assembly is not scheduled to meet again until 1977, but an extraordinary Assembly session can be convened at any time if a sufficient number of ICAO members request it.

The Arabs have not yet specified the grounds on which they would demand Israel's expulsion but they apparently feel that a number of recent Israeli actions can be considered violations of air safety and other international rules.

Israel is awaiting a formal submission of a resolution to the ICAO's governing Council or Assembly before reacting publicly to the Arab move.
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Somalia

Formation of a Political Party Under Consideration

President Siad may soon announce the creation of a political party.

Siad said in his late October national day speech that a political organization would be formed in early 1975. Past promises of action on the establishment of a party have not been fulfilled, but two different models for such a party are being debated within the Somali hierarchy. The nature of any political organization that emerges may provide clues to the relationship among Siad, the military members of the ruling Supreme Revolutionary Council, and civilian officials.

For the most part, civilian ideologues in the government favor a Soviet-type party which would act as the basic mechanism for governing Somalia. Such a party would be directed by a small educated elite. The party would determine national policy and see to its implementation. It would have a strong Marxist flavor.

The civilians see the party as initially incorporating but rather quickly replacing the military officers presently running the country. This concept of the party obviously does not find much support among military members of the revolutionary council who are unlikely to accept a diminution of their political role without a struggle. Conservative Muslim elements who are opposed to a further secularization of the country and increased Soviet influence also object to the elitist party model.

The other concept being advanced is that of a mass political organization designed to generate popular support for policies determined in another forum and to give the government the means to control the population. The military leaders view the mass organization with some suspicion because they fear Siad would use it to enhance his position at their expense.

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The US embassy in Mogadiscio reports that there does not seem to be any pressure on Siad to move toward forming a political organization at this time. [REDACTED] 25X6

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Nigeria

Signs of Labor Unrest

The government's exclusion of private employees from a recent pay hike has touched off the first potentially serious labor unrest in recent years. General Gowon implied last October in his annual independence day address that a general wage increase would be forthcoming.

Late last month the government granted substantial raises only to Nigeria's civil servants. The government said that pay adjustments for the rest of the labor force would have to be determined by collective bargaining. Increases for the armed forces are still being worked out.

Trade unions are predictably upset with the failure to include private employees in the pay raise. Spokesmen for Nigeria's four large central labor organizations have urged the government to set the same minimum wage for all workers, and they have called on private firms to complete wage negotiations with the unions by the end of January.

Union leaders are under heavy pressure from the restive rank and file to win pay raises as quickly as possible to help offset the inflationary impact of the civil servants' wage increase. In the past two weeks, rents and food prices have jumped sharply.

Most major firms, such as oil companies, will probably follow soon with substantial wage increases. Many medium-sized firms and small businesses, which employ the bulk of Nigeria's workers, have less financial resources, and are likely to move reluctantly. Some may not give in until forced to by strikes.

Oil truck drivers have become the first workers in the private sector to strike for pay increases equivalent to those given to civil servants. There are many poorly paid workers in other fields who may be tempted to follow suit. A large number of these workers have still not been paid wage increases the government recommended that private employers pay in 1971.

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Although pay increases for the civil service could total as much as \$275 million, not all public employees are happy. There are signs of growing dissatisfaction among many middle-level and senior civil servants who believe they have benefitted less than lower-paid bureaucrats and cabinet heads. Doctors and nurses in several government hospitals are already protesting with a work slowdown.

The government plans to avert widespread labor unrest, but it is not yet clear how strongly Nigeria's military rulers are prepared to act. The government's ban on strikes and other protest activity was recently extended for one year, and special labor-management mediation panels are being set up. The government's ineffective price control board has also been re-organized. So far, the federal government has taken no action against protesting truckers and hospital workers. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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